

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G06F9/50

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC, WPI Data, IBM-TDB, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-------------------------|
| X | LEINBERGER W; KARYPIS G; KUMAR V: "Multi-Capacity Bin Packing Algorithms with Applications to Job Scheduling under Multiple Constraints (TR 99-024)" "Online! 27 May 1999 (1999-05-27), pages 1-23, XP002285342 Retrieved from the Internet: URL: http://www-users.cs.umn.edu/{karypis/publications/Papers/PDF/mrbinpac.pdf abstract page 4, last line - page 5, line 38 page 6, line 24 - page 7, line 5 page 7, line 6 - page 20, line 21 | 1-3, 11-14, 18-20 |
| A | ----- -/-- | 4, 5, 7, 15-17 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 October 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

05/11/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
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| X | COFFMAN E G; GAREY M R; JOHNSON D S: "APPROXIMATION ALGORITHMS FOR BIN PACKING: A SURVEY" APPROXIMATION ALGORITHMS FOR NP-HARD PROBLEMS, 'Online! 1996, pages 1-53, XP002285343 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:http://www.ee.columbia.edu/{egc/webpap ers/BPchapter.ps> | 1-3, 12-14 |
| A | page 1, line 17 - line 21 page 4, line 9 - line 19 page 15, line 24 - line 31 page 17, line 10 - line 30 | 18, 19 |
| A | page 7, line 18 - page 8, line 32 page 12, line 1 - page 15, line 23 page 17, line 31 - page 20, line 24 | 4, 5, 7, 15-17 |
| X | US 2002/046316 A1 (MERCHANT ARIF ET AL) 18 April 2002 (2002-04-18) | 1-3, 11-14, 18, 19 |
| A | the whole document | 7, 8, 17 |
| A | "RELATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR DISTRIBUTED DATABASE SYSTEMS" IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, IBM CORP. NEW YORK, US, vol. 31, no. 1, 1 June 1988 (1988-06-01), pages 219-225, XP000045647 ISSN: 0018-8689 page 225, line 12 - line 21 | 10 |
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| A | AGGARWAL G; MOTWANI R; ZHU A: "The load rebalancing problem" PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL ACM SYMPOSIUM ON PARALLEL ALGORITHMS AND ARCHITECTURES, June 2003 (2003-06), pages 258-265, XP002285345 USA the whole document | 1-20 |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/008103

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| US 2002046316 A1 | 18-04-2002 | US 6366931 B1 | 02-04-2002 |
| | | EP 1145127 A2 | 17-10-2001 |
| | | WO 0031640 A2 | 02-06-2000 |
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